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NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

Letter dated 27 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the text of the statement issued on 8 March 1996 by the States members of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Policy Coordination - the Rio Group - concerning the so-called Helms-Burton Act.

In my capacity as Coordinator of the Rio Group in New York, I request that the statement annexed hereto should be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 27 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Edgar CAMACHO-OMISTE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/50.

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Annex

Statement concerning the legislative initiative of the United States, the so-called "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act"

With reference to the legislative initiative, the so-called "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act", known as the Helms-Burton Act, the States members of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Policy Coordination - the Rio Group - have issued the following statement:

Recalling the statement of their Ministers for Foreign Affairs of 23 May 1995 and the 1995 Presidential statement issued at Quito, which condemned any attempt to establish sanctions or economic restrictions such as those envisaged in the so-called draft "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act - 1995",

The States members of the Rio Group most emphatically reject the adoption of that legislation, which violates the principles and rules of international law and of the Charters of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States, contravenes those of the World Trade Organization and is contrary to the spirit of friendship and cooperation which should characterize relations between countries in the hemisphere.

The States members of the Rio Group are concerned about the scope of the Act, which disregards the fundamental principle of respect for the sovereignty of States; its implementation signifies an extra-territorial application of internal law that is in opposition to public international law.

The countries of the Rio Group urge the Government of the United States to consider the negative effects of the implementation of the Act known as the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act", which contravene the principles governing regional coexistence and the goal of the integration of the hemisphere.